

A
TRUE COPY
OF THE
PAPERS

WROTE BY
JAMES MABEN,

Who was Executed

SATURDAY, *August* 11, 1744,

WITHOUT

The *West Gate*, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,
for counterfeiting the current Coin of *Great Britain*, as delivered by him the Night before his Execution, in the Presence of several Spectators, signed by himself, and attested by Fourteen creditable Persons:

CONTAINING

Some Account of his LIFE; his Character of *John Dodds* who was Evidence against him at his Trial; as also the Confession of his Faith, and Dying Principles, as to Matters of Religion.

NEWCASTLE:

Printed in the Year MDCCXLIV.

[PRICE TWO-PENCE.]

THE NEW YORK

OF THE

PAPER

WROTE BY

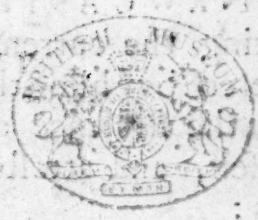
JAMES M. ALLEN

Who was Executed

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1844

WITHOUT

The New York Herald, when it
for comment on the execution of
him, as delivered to the public
execution, in the presence of
signed by him, and the public
doubtful persons:



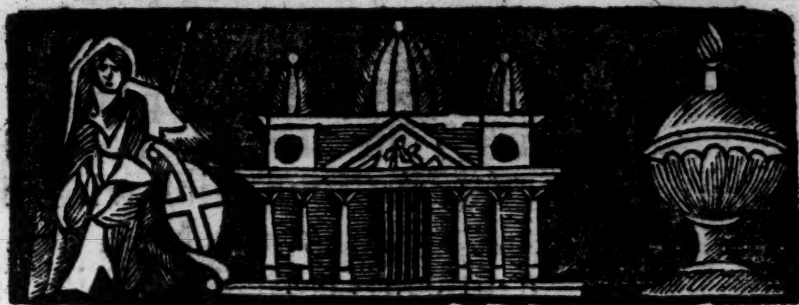
CONTAINING

Some Account of his LIFE; his OBITUARY
of John Davis who was executed on the 11th
as also the execution of the 11th, and the
copy of the New York Herald.

NEW YORK

Printed in the New York

[Printer's Name]



A
T R U E C O P Y
O F T H E

PAPERS wrote by **JAMES MABEN**,
who was Executed on *Saturday* the Eleventh
of *August* 1744. without the *West Gate*,
Newcastle upon Tyne, &c.

FRIENDS and Fellow-Creatures, from every
unfortunate Man in my unhappy Situa-
tion, the World commonly expects (tho' I
am afraid more out of Curiosity than for
Edification) something to satisfy Mankind after
their unhappy Exit, concerning their past Life,
the Crime or Crimes for which they are ac-
cused, and are to suffer, and to satisfy them as
to their former and dying Principles, and what
Hopes they may entertain of Futurity, &c.

As to the first of these, From my Infancy to
the unlucky Hour I met with *John Dodds* alias
Sbeils at my Lodgings at the *Nag's Head*, in
Gateshead, I lived reputably in the World; I had

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indeed once seen that base Man, about eight or nine Years ago at *Kelfo*, where he past for an Engraver, at which Time I kept the Post-Office in *Kelfo*; I had the Curiosity to drink with him, hearing he was a very ingenious Man, but no sooner heard him discourse, than I despised his Company: But, alas! to my great Misfortune at last, I have been inveigled by him to my Ruin. And to give his Character in few Words, he is a very ignorant Fellow, only pretends to know something of the compounding of Metals, which any body of common Sense may as well as he in six Hours Time; but as to the working Part he is a meer Bungler, only draws in the ignorant and unwary, to drain their Money from them, and ruin them at last. Having been frequently in Jails, he knows all the Tricks and little mean Artifices to cheat and circumveen his Fellow Prisoners, especially those who never were in these unhappy Circumstances: He is barbarous in his Nature, and cruel in his Way of Life; and he has falsely sworn away my Life, and the Life of another Man: What he swore against Mr. *Leathead*, was likewise false, and against Mr. *Sym*.

I indeed was Witness to his attempting at *Benwell* to make about eighteen Copper Shillings, but they could never be said to be finished; likewise I saw him make three Guineas, and six Thirty-six Shilling Pieces, and that was all that I ever was Witness to in the whole Course of my Life, tho' that notorious Offender *Dodds* swore

swore most falsely to a great many Guineas being made in my Presence: But, as I am now upon the Verge of Eternity, I have related the Truth, as above, of all the Coining I was ever concerned in in my Life, and for which I am to suffer. There was indeed an Intention at *Newcastle*, but never any thing perfected.

As to my other former Offences, I need only say I have too frequently transgressed the Law of a good, gracious and beneficent Being, and for which I am heartily sorry. I can blame nobody for my Follies, as it was in my Power to have resisted either bad Advice or bad Example; but being naturally of a credulous and easy Disposition, and by Reason no doubt of the original Corruption of my Nature, listen'd to Principles that sooth'd my Vanity, and lull'd me as it were to Ease and Security, while I was offending against a just and holy God: But save when I was warm with Liquor, I had severe Reproofs in my own Breast, nor could coolly persuade myself of these Things I was too willing to believe. No doubt the Providence of God has thought proper to inflict this severe Punishment upon me in this World, and I hope to correct me so as to bring me to himself.

I don't know but it may be of Service to Mankind to warn them to beware of Jails, and what dreadful Dangers attend them, which after my Commitment proved my Ruin: On my first being apprehended, I made a free and voluntary

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untary Confession of all I knew of the Matter, or at least could remember at that Time, which was on *Monday* the 29th of *October* 1743, only neglected one Man and two Women, who were in Part privy to it; but in twenty-four Hours after, upon recollecting myself, I likewise fairly discover'd.

The Mayor of *Newcastle*, who is a very humane Gentleman, upon my being order'd to Prison, desired the Jailer of *Newgate* to use me well as possible; I was admitted by him the King's Evidence, and said, I hoped he would put me up-stairs with the Debtors: However, the Jailer (who no doubt knows his Duty very well but to my unspeakable Misfortune) confined me along with one *David Venters*, who was in Prison for Horse-stealing. I had been in Prison but a very few Days, before *Venters* suggested to me that he heard from one *Surtees*, a Prisoner at large in *Newgate* for Debt, that I was in greater Hazard than any body, and being put in Irons confirmed me in what he said; tho' I understand since, my informing against the two Women (tho' all I said was Truth) made me be so ill used. In the mean time *Venters*, who found himself in Hazard, as likewise I apprehended of myself, both of us began to speak of breaking Prison; we mutually agreed to it, and his Wife was spoke to by him to fetch a Coulter from a Plough to work our Way through the Wall: She consented to it, and went to the Country

Country for that Purpose, but returned without performing her Promise.

A little after her Return, a poor harmless Man, by Name *Alexander Kerr*, called out of Kindness to see me, when *Venters* and I spoke to him to have a Crow-Iron made, which *Venters* shewed him a Model off in Wood that he made with his Knife. The poor simple Man (not apprehending the Danger) consented to get it done. As soon as he was gone, *Venters* acquainted the Turnkey of *Newgate* our Design, who bid him push me on, and I should have a Cast: This was a Fortnight before the Piece of Iron was brought in, and the poor innocent Man's Name was wrote down by the Turnkey, and the Name of his Brother-in-Law, *John Windram*, who never had any Hand in the Affair, save only coming along with his Brother-in-Law, and standing at a great Distance while his Brother put in the Piece of Iron. *Venters's* Wife was allowed to come into Jail that Night, tho' never before; *Reay*, the Turnkey, admitted her, that she might be Evidence against me, and those poor unhappy Men. However, whatever she said against us was false, she being drunk and asleep in Bed when the Iron was put in: The poor Men were detained at the Window some Time, till the Signal was sent by *Venters* to *Reay*, as he and *Venters* had agreed, and the poor unlucky Men were taken up, and for which they are both to be transported. *Kerr* knew not the Danger,

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Danger, and *Windram* was quite innocent of the Affair.

Then was I thrust into the Dungeon, where *Dodds* and another Man that I had informed against were confined, which was certainly one of the cruelest Actions could be done me: Then *Dodds* and the other Man, with seeming good Nature, told me I must deny all; and insinuated to me, that my Intention to break Prison had broke my Evidence, which I did really believe: They still insisted upon my denying all; I did not know what to do, telling them I could not deviate from my Oath; but being two to one, fell upon me with Violence. I called for Help to the Centry, and he acquainted the Turnkey, who immediately came to the Dungeon: I complained of my ill Usage, and to make me Amends, he chained me fast to the Wall Day and Night; then were they left loose upon me, then was I in their Power to use me as they pleased; and *Dodds* swore, if I would not write a Letter denying all to the Mayor, I should be murdered in the Dungeon. I wrote a Thing in Verse first, hoping to put him off with that, but would not put my Name to it; but he finding that would not do, extorted a Letter from me directed to the Mayor, denying all, but promised not to shew it till the Trial, in case I offered to confess; however, that very Night he gave it to the Turnkey, desiring him to send it to the Mayor; and next Morning I took an Opportunity to speak to the Turnkey, begging him,
if

if the Letter was not gone to detain it, for it was extorted from me, and might do me a great deal of Hurt; but he answer'd me in a surly Manner, saying, he did not doubt but the Mayor had got it already, tho' he had not, for it lay in Mr. Dawson's House for a Week after.

Dodds sent for the Mayor, and asking him if he had seen that Letter I had wrote him, he answer'd, No: It was found after Enquiry in Mr. Dawson's House; then was *Dodds* admitted Evidence.

I thought proper to let the World know this, that they might judge of my ill Usage, and being imposed upon in Jail: I have emitted a great deal of Things besides of the most barbarous Kind that befel me in *Newgate*; and I heartily wish all Mankind may take care for the future, not to run the Hazard of ever being committed to Prison, and, if it is their Misfortune, to beware of Jailers, Turnkeys, and Jail-birds, for after I was committed, these were undoubtedly my Ruin.

Concerning *Dodds's* Character, and the Affair of the Jail, they may appear insipid to the World; yet I thought them absolutely necessary, that no Man for the future split upon the same Rock.

The last Thing I presume to satisfy the World of, is concerning my Principles, and genuine
B Sentiments

Sentiments of Affairs of far greater Concern and Consequence, and which I intend as a Confession of my Dying Faith, to convince the World that their Notions of my Belief have been only ignorant and ill-natur'd Aspersions. I have not been indeed without my Doubts and Scruples since my Confinement, and more especially since my severe and fatal Sentence. No doubt the grand Enemy of my Soul, and of the Souls of all Mankind, made dreadful Assaults in my great Extremity, which almost drove me to Despair, or at least to a sad Despondency; and being naturally of a melancholy Constitution, I was sadly bewilder'd and beclouded, and spoke Words to some of the worthy and reverend Gentlemen who called to see me, as gave Occasion for the Vulgar to run away with uncharitable Reports of me, tho' what I said or disputed with them about was more for Information than any thing else.

I do sincerely from the Bottom of my Soul believe, that there is one infinitely great Being, possess'd of all possible great Perfections in himself; and I do believe, that that infinitely great God, was, is, and shall be eternally happy in himself; but was pleased, in his infinite Condescension, to create not only this Globe, which is only like a Drop in the Bucket in Comparison to infinite and innumerable Systems beside, but in his own good Pleasure made Man and Woman, and placed them in the most commodious and pleasant Spot of this lower World. I believe,
that

that the Almighty gave them Power to resist all Temptations, but if they yielded to the Tempter, they would entail Misery upon themselves and all Mankind: And for a Trial of their Fidelity, I believe, that the Most High forbid them the Use only of one Fruit in the Garden wherein they were placed; but they giving Way to the Insinuations of *Satan*, the Woman yielded to the Temptation, enticed, tempted, and overcame her Husband, and they mutually tasted the Fruit and broke the Command, which produced fatal Effects, *viz. Death spiritual and temporal*: After the Breach of that divine Law, temporal Death was not to be avoided.

But I sincerely believe, that a Remedy was provided for a Recovery from the spiritual Death, which was a Saviour promised for the Redemption of the Soul, even the Lord Jesus Christ, who was immediately promised upon the Back of the first Transgression, and who in Fulness of Time appeared.

I do believe, that the same Jesus Christ is the Son of the Eternal God; that he was miraculously conceiv'd by the Power of the Holy Ghost in the Womb of the Virgin *Mary*; that he preached, during his Stay upon Earth, the Doctrine of Salvation thro' Faith in his own Blood to all who to the End of the World should believe in him.

I believe, that the same Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, voluntarily laid down his

Life to redeem Mankind from the Curse pronounced against *Adam* and his Seed; and that all who sincerely believe and depend upon him for Salvation shall obtain everlasting Life.

I believe, that the same Jesus Christ was condemned, and suffered under *Pontius Pilate*, was buried, and descended into the lowermost Part of the Earth; and in three Days by his infinite Power rose again, and ascended to the Right Hand of God his Father; and that he will appear to judge the World at last in great Glory; and that all Mankind shall appear before him at the general Resurrection, to receive their final Sentence: All which I firmly believe.

I believe in the Third Person of the blessed and glorious Trinity, the Holy Ghost, who illuminates our dark Understandings, and points out more clearly to us the Way to everlasting Life: And I believe God has a particular Church on Earth, who worships him sincerely above all others; tho' I have Charity for the whole human Race, hoping and believing that God manifests himself to all the Ends of the Earth in such a Manner, that they are all left inexcusable if they forget their Creator.

And I do believe a future State of Rewards and Punishments for the Godly and the Profane.

However,

However, it is my humble Opinion, that even the Wicked shall not suffer eternally, tho' there is not the least Doubt with me of their being punish'd shorter or longer, according to the Deeds done in the Body; *for who can dwell with everlasting Burnings?*

I do take the Word *Everlasting*, as it is commonly used in Scripture, for a certain Period of Time; and really to exist under the Wrath of God only for a few Months, Weeks or Days; nay, even Moments, must be intolerable: And I presume no sooner the immortal Soul, (which must act and reflect with infinite more Freedom when out of the Body) cast of the loathsome Burden of Flesh and Blood, but it will then review its former Follies with more Clearness and Freedom; exert all its Faculties, and repent for the Deeds done in the Body: But to enter into the Joy of our Lord as soon as out of the Body, must be of all Joys the most complete, and the most to be desired. Therefore all Mankind should *watch and pray that they enter not into Temptation.*

I do firmly and sincerely believe the *Old and New Testament* to be given by the Inspiration of God, fit for Instruction, Doctrine, and for Reproof.

As for the *New Testament*, where the Vail of Ceremonies are removed, I do believe no System was ever yet contrived to come up to it for
Faith

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Faith and Manners: There, by the Example of Jesus Christ and his Apostles, we are taught every thing requisite to our Peace and Comfort here; a future State proved, and Rewards and Punishments after.

Our blessed Saviour not only preached that excellent Doctrine, but proved his Mission divine, by Miracles approved of by Heaven: And as he had both the Favour of God, and was assisted by him through the whole Course of his Ministry, who can doubt of his Divinity? Sure none but those that are wilfully blind.

I die in Peace with all Men, forgiving those that have injured me, and prosecuted me even unto Death; begging Forgiveness from those who in my Life-time I may have wronged. I part with all the World without Reluctancy, only my dear Wife, my virtuous and good Wife, whose Advice had I always followed, it could not have been in the Power of Devils or Men to have seduced or hurt me; but with Patience I beg the Assistance of Heaven to submit to Divine Providence.

And after the Example of a good and great Man, and in his Words, I resign my Soul to its Creator, with all humble Hopes of its future Happiness, as in the Hands of a Being infinitely Good.

Farewel;

*Farewel, vain World, and ev'ry Thing therein;
A World of Woes, of vain Delights and Sin!
Welcome a Place of Pleasure and Delight!
To Souls repenting, and of Heart contrite:
My Spirit, Lord! I give into thy Hand,
Adieu this Globe; welcome Emanuel's Land!*

If any other Thing be printed in my Name,
I do declare it spurious and none of mine, as
witness my Hand,

JAMES MABEN.

**An Account of James Maben's going
from Prison to the Place of Execu-
tion; also his Behaviour there, with
his Last Words.**

JAMES MABEN was drawn on a Sledge,
dress'd all in White, to the Place of Execu-
tion, attended by the Reverend Mr. Gordon, who
was indefatigable in discharging his Duty. At
the Gallows Foot he call'd to the Sheriff for a
Glas of Wine, which was immediately order'd
him. Mr. Gordon prayed a considerable Time,
and sung a Psalm; then he took Leave of several
of his Acquaintances about him, and ascended
the Ladder to a Sort of a Scaffold erected in a
Cart, there read some Time, with an audible
Voice,

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Voice, on *Drelincourt's Consolations against the Fears of Death*; and after a small Pause, said, *Farewel World!* then gave the Signal for the Executioner to do his Office.

It was his constant Prayer after Sentence, that God would enable him to bear it with a Manly and Christian Courage; and he embraced Death chearfully, without expressing the least Horror or Despondency in his Gate or Countenance, but with a seeming Composure and Resignation of Mind. Thus ended the melancholy Scene, which caused Compassion from all, and Tears from many of the Spectators. His courteous Behaviour gained much upon the Affections of the Populace, which 'tis hoped will influence the Practice of Virtue and Religion amongst all who saw him.

W. G.

N. B. The other Genuine Pieces of *James Maben* are now in the Hands of a Person in this Town, and speedily will be published.



FINIS.

16-1602
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